

WRITING CHALLENGES FACED BY FEMALE STUDENTS IN EFL ACADEMIC WRITING CLASSES

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ABSTRACT

Researchers in the past have explored issues of academic writing challenges in various educational context. Nevertheless, previous studies that examine academic writing challenges faced by female students in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) context, with regard to Indonesian university students, have not been discussed sufficiently. This study aims to find out the challenges experienced by female students in Academic Writing classes and described how the students dealt with the challenges. The participants of the study were the third-year female students in two Academic Writing classes at Faculty of Language and Arts, English Department of Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana (ED-UKSW). The data was collected through a close-ended questionnaire in which the participants chose whether they agree or disagree with the statements. Besides, the data were also collected through a semi-structured interview to clarify further about the responses toward the questionnaire and to get more in-depth information about their experiences. The findings specifically revealed two themes. The first theme discussed the three primary challenges were faced by the students in writing English sentences without any grammatical mistakes, challenges in using hedging, and challenges in writing English sentences using formal English language in their academic writing. The second theme discussed three strategies done by the students which were the use of teacher's feedback, e-reader such as e-journal and e-book, and pre-writing strategies.

Key Word : Writing, Academic Writing Class, Academic Writing Challenges.